

APPENDIX J: U.S. FOREST SERVICE HIKER TRAIL RATING SYSTEM

FSH 2309.18 - TRAILS MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK
R-1 SUPPLEMENT NO. 2309.18-90-1
EFFECTIVE 01/10/91

2.3 - TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDES. Many existing trails do not meet the conditions specified in the Guides below. As budgets permit, plan, maintain, construct and reconstruct trails to conform to the Guides to the extent practicable, relative to conditions on the ground. Forest Supervisors may approve deviations from the Guides.

2.31a - Hiker Trail Guide. The following exhibit provides construction and maintenance guides for hiking trails in Region 1:

Exhibit 1

Hiker Trail Guide

		Easiest	More Difficult	Most Difficult ^{1/}
<u>Grade</u>	Max. Pitch Grade	20%	30%	+30%
	Length	100'	300'	+500'
	Max. Sustained Grade	10%	15%	20%
<u>Clearing</u> ^{2/}	Width	4'	3' to 4'	3'
	Height	8'	8'	8'
<u>Tread</u> ^{3/}	Width	18" to 24" obstacle-free.	12" to 18" if needed, depending on volume and drainage.	12"
	Surface	Spot gravel surfacing.	Not surfaced-- leave roots, embedded rocks, and some logs.	No graded tread except on side slopes over 30% where safety or resource damage is a problem.

^{1/}Upper limit of grade and pitch length for most difficult trails depends on soil type, amount of rock, vegetation type, and other conditions affecting stability of the trail.

^{2/}Curve alignment to avoid cutting large trees. Dimensions shown are minimums.

^{3/}Increase tread width 6 inches on switchbacks or where side slopes exceed 60 percent. Dimensions shown are minimums.